

158 Trolley Line Road  
Graniteville, SC 29829

Sept. 30, 2009

Public Service Commission of South Carolina,  
101 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100  
Columbia, SC 29210

Attention: Lib Fleming, President

Dear Ms. Fleming:

Tonight I attended the meeting at Byrd Elementary in Graniteville. I once again thank you and the commission for coming and listening to the residents.

I am sending this material right away in order for it to be considered as part of my testimony from this evening.

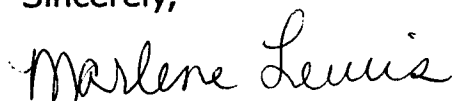
I was asked about the date of my phone call to Avondale when I first received the water bill on July 31, 2009. I talked with the person who worked in the water office. I thought perhaps this increase was a one time fee, but I was told I could expect this bill every month, at the same rate. I believe I called there around 4:00 pm, after I came home.

In my testimony, I also mentioned our August bill which was for \$80.00, we had lowered our water usage by half the amount used in July. We stopped watering our yard completely, and also gave up watering our little garden.

I am sending copies of 2 letters which I had sent to Avondale, and of which I never received a reply. I am also sending a copy of a letter I wrote to the PSC, a letter to Governor Sanford, and a letter to Senator Demint. I have called and e-mailed Senator Massey, Representatives Smith and Young, and they have been prompt in returning replies. Only my correspondence to Avondale has been unanswered.

I am very glad you will have the hearing on Oct.6, 2009, and I trust this enclosed material will arrive to you in time.

Sincerely,



Marlene Lewis

158 Trolley Line Road  
Graniteville, SC 29829

July 31, 2009

Public Service Commission of South Carolina,  
101 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100  
Columbia, SC 29210

To whom it may concern:

Today I received my monthly water and sewer bill from the Graniteville/ Vaucluse Water and Sewer System.

I was absolutely **flabbergasted!**

The month of April our bill for 7000 gallons of water was \$14.71.  
The month of May our bill for 10000 gallons of water was \$18.85  
The month of June our bill for 21000 gallons of water was \$34.03.

Imagine the shock when our bill for the month of July for 12000 gallons of water is \$146.00.

I can not believe that Avondale Mills would be allowed to raise their water fees by such an **enormous** amount.

Please look into this. There are many senior citizens living on a fixed income, including my husband, and we can not afford to pay this **exorbitant** amount for the use of water. It is a **crime**.

I plan to contact my local representatives, state senator, whoever it takes. Please either write me at the above address, or give me a call at 1-803-663-8289.

At this rate, the entire community of Graniteville/Vaucluse will become a ghost town.

Sincerely,

Marlene Lewis

Avondale letter  
# 1

158 Trolley Line Road  
Graniteville, SC 29829

July 31, 2009

Avondale Mills, Inc.  
Graniteville/Vaucluse Water and Sewer System  
P. O. Box 128  
Graniteville, SC 29829

Dear Sirs:

I am so sorry that Avondale Mills has decided to over-charge the Graniteville/Vaucluse residents for their water and sewer needs. Senior citizens, actually any one living in this economy can barely make ends meet as it is.

I am attaching part of a letter I wrote to the Public Service Commission outlining what I call excessive charges.

Today I received my monthly water and sewer bill from the Graniteville/ Vaucluse Water and Sewer System.

**Here it is:**

*I was absolutely **flabbergasted!***

*The month of April our bill for 7000 gallons of water was \$14.71.*

*The month of May our bill for 10000 gallons of water was \$18.85*

*The month of June our bill for 21000 gallons of water was \$34.03.*

*Imagine the shock when our bill for the month of July for 12000 gallons of water is \$146.00.*

*I can not believe that Avondale Mills would be allowed to raise their water fees by such an **enormous** amount.*

I have also written to Senator Lindsey Graham, and I plan to contact Senator Massey as well. I am hoping that Avondale Mills will reconsider their fee scale. Please call me at 803-663-8289, or write me back with any feedback.

Sincerely,

Marlene Lewis

:  
158 Trolley Line Road  
Graniteville, SC 29829

Governor Mark Sanford  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 12267  
Columbia, SC 29211

August 7, 2009

Dear Governor Sanford:

I am sure you have heard about the water and sewer system woes in the Graniteville/Vaucluse area. I wanted first of all to express my thanks to public servants; Roland Smith, Shane Massey and Tom Young. They have been working very diligently the last week to address the concerns that we residents in Graniteville and Vaucluse have.

I believe that this is such a serious situation, that it also should warrant your attention. I have attended two community meetings this week concerning the recent rate increase imposed by Avondale Mills.

Our particular bill averaged around \$12.00 a month for several years. Our last bill reflecting the 700% increase is \$146.00. Thankfully the SC Public Service Commission has suspended the current bills. We do not know if they will expect payment of these increases perhaps after 30 days.

I can understand that we residents have been paying a very low price for many years, but it is not our fault that the state of the water/sewer system is in such bad shape. We should not be expected to pay that much of an increase, especially at \$6.00 per thousand gallons for sewer use.

You have probably heard about the condition of the water/sewer system in Graniteville. Most of the residents I've talked to complain about the quality of the water. Personally I've always purchased bottled water. The taste of the water here is horrible. We are also concerned that we do not have enough water available in case of a fire. Many fire hydrants in Vaucluse are painted black. They are not available for use.

Please take some time to consider the immediate concerns of the residents in Graniteville and Vaucluse.

Thank you,

Marlene Lewis

158 Trolley Line Road  
Graniteville, SC 29829

August 7, 2009

Senator Jim DeMint  
1901 Main St  
Suite 1475  
Columbia, SC 29201

Hello. I am one of your constituents, also a staunch Republican who voted for you. I have a grave concern regarding the state of the water/sewer system in the Graniteville/Vaucluse area.

I have already written Lindsay Graham, but have not received an answer yet. I'm sure you have heard of the 700% increase in water and sewer rates, which was approved by the SC Public Service Commission. (submitted by Avondale Mills).

I have attended two community meetings this week, and have been alarmed to learn that the water situation is so bad, that no other company wants to take it over. It is possible that the Valley Public Service Authority could take it over, but they are going to need some financial assistance. I understand that there is stimulus money available and earmarked for this particular situation. If the system isn't taken over by a public utility, the money available will be taken by another community.

As it stands now, the Graniteville/Vaucluse community is in danger of becoming a ghost town. With water/sewer bills at the proposed rate, people will have to move out, and will not be able to sell their homes. This is really a sad predicament. I know there are only 500 to 550 total water customers. I would appreciate if you could lend a hand to our local representatives to give them direction in saving our towns.

Thank you,

Marlene Lewis

158 Trolley Line Rd.  
Graniteville, SC 29829

*Avondale  
Letter # 2*

Avondale Mills Inc.  
Graniteville/Vaucluse Water and Sewer System  
Attn: Steven Felker, Jr.  
P. O. Box 128  
Graniteville, SC 29829

August 29, 2009

Dear Mr. Felker:

We are customers using the Graniteville/Vaucluse water and Sewer System which is operated by Avondale Mills. We are requesting a refund on the bill dated 7-24-09. This bill reflects the increase which was not sent with appropriate notice. As you know, Judge Early ruled that the increase goes into effect August 1, 2009. This means the entire bill needs to be using the previous rate. We used 12,000 gallons of water during that cycle. At the previous rate, that bill should have been \$26.66, not \$146.00. This means we are due a refund of \$119.34. Also, the next bill dated 8-24-09 says we used 6,000 gallons. The dates from 7-25-09 until 8-01-09 should have been billed at the old rate, and then beginning 8-1-09, the new increases are legally in effect. We are not sure how this prorate would work, but it would be reasonable for your office to adjust the rates for those 7 days.

We are quoting from the Aiken Standard dated 8-25-09, which states:

"On Monday, Circuit Court Judge Doyet A. "Jack" Early signed an order implementing a temporary injunction on the recently increased water rates, stating that they could cause "irreparable harm" and that Avondale did not properly notify its customers of the increase in advance."

We have heard from Rep. Tom Young that the increase from Avondale went into effect on Aug. 1, 2009. We are enclosing a copy of his letter for your use. We await the return of the monies which we paid that we not our legal responsibility. We are sending a copy of this letter to Rep. Tom Young.

Sincerely,

Bob G. Lewis and Marlene Lewis

cc: Rep. Tom Young